

are we willing to give this up for the lack of a very reasonable investment?

Congress and the president are faced with tough choices. Fully supporting human space flight, on the other hand, should be an easy choice. By making the choice to provide the additional funding necessary for a robust U.S. space exploration program, government and private industry jobs will be retained and created, international relationships will be secured and strengthened with America leading the way, and our youth will continue to dream of exploring the universe, taking those steps necessary to do so. Not only is this the most reasonable course of action, it's the right thing to do—for America and for the world.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST END SILVER POINT CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of the West End Church of Christ congregation in Silver Point, Tennessee.

In 1909, Pastor George Phillip "G.P." Bowser relocated the Laurel Hill congregation to Silver Point and established the Putnam County Normal and Industrial Orphanage to provide housing, education, vocation, and religious instruction to the African American children of the region. In 1913, the school became the Silver Point Christian Institute, educating grades one through eight. A small printing press was operated by the school, which led to the development of the Christian Echo—a publication that is still printed today.

By 1915, the church and school combined into the West End Church of Christ Silver Point. A new building was constructed, which still stands to this day. In December 2007, the building was included in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. National Park Service.

The geographically isolated Highland Rim area of Middle Tennessee has always focused on small-scale agriculture and timber resources grouped into small towns. Farms were tended by individual families with little outside help. Until the early 20th century, these small communities in Silver Point had few religious organizations and even fewer schools. Classes were often taught in buildings that could not afford proper maintenance or enough supplies for students.

The school that Pastor Bowser established in 1915 provided the young children of the community with educational opportunities never before seen in the area. Though the school closed in 1959, the church remains active.

Many prominent and nationally-acclaimed leaders have been personally involved with the church, including Sam Womack, Alexander Campbell, Marshall Keeble, Henry Clay, J.S. Winston, R.N. Hogan, G.E. Stewart, and Levi Kennedy.

Through its 100-year history, the West End Church of Christ in Silver Point has provided

a place of identity and congregation for the African American community of western Putnam County. I congratulate the congregation on its centennial anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on September 29, due to personal reasons, I was unable to cast the three votes that were called on that day. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 740 (H.R. 905); 741 (H. Res. 16) and 742 (H.R. 2997).

102ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROATIAN SONS LODGE 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 102nd anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 11, 2009.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees, who have attained fifty years of membership, include: John B. Belork, Richard J. Bundeck, Victoria Ann Burson, Robert J. Erdelac, Michael Grasa, Richard F. Grcevic, Joanne James, Peter P. Jay, Mary Ellen Kaegebein, Mirjana M. Kirincic, Della Klobuchar, Lawrence Labash, Slavko Ladic, Miyo George Mrkonich, Joan Marie Pope, Frances Razumich, Rudolph J. Rubesha, Jr., Peter George Tarpo, and Valerie Trtan.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 489 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The banquet will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich, and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding a project that is listed in the Conference Report of H.R. 3183, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY2010:

Bill Number: Conference Report—H.R. 3183, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY2010, Account: Department of Energy, EERE, Title: Advance Power Cube for Wind Power and Grid Regulation Services, Legal Name of Requesting Entity: East Penn Manufacturing, Address of Requesting Entity: Deka Road, Lyon Station, PA 19536, Description of Request: This funding will support design, testing, fabrication and implementation of new advanced battery energy storage technology that will be used to balance the fluctuating generation of electricity in wind systems and improve the efficiency of the current electricity grid. This technology will produce a more affordable, cleaner, recyclable and more efficient energy storage option than what is currently available for wind power farms and grid regulation services.

H.R. 3548, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, on September 22, 2009 the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009 with my support. I voted for H.R. 3548, legislation that would extend unemployment benefits by 13 weeks for states with unemployment rates in excess of 8.5%. Our nation is currently facing significant economic challenges, including the highest unemployment rates in over twenty years. With nearly five million Americans and 290,000 Virginians out of work, I believe extending unemployment benefits was the right thing to do.

Several localities in Virginia's First Congressional District experienced unemployment above 8% this summer. However, I am disappointed that H.R. 3548 would not extend benefits in Virginia because the states unemployment rate is currently below 7%. This bill's 8% threshold needlessly overlooks struggling families in Virginia. I would like to see this measure amended to extend the same unemployment benefits to all Americans regardless of where they live.

I understand that unemployment is putting significant strains on local families. That's why I recently hosted a First District Job Fair featuring state, federal, and private employers. Hundreds of First District residents attended the successful job fair and are now on their way into the workforce.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIE CAIN BURKHARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of an outstanding individual, Julie Cain Burkhard, as she concludes her distinguished work as Chairman of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). This conference represents 26 sororities with a member base of more than four million women at 655 campuses and 4,500 alumnae chapters in the United States and Canada. Sororities and fraternities are the largest values-based organizations on college campuses and among the most successful leadership development programs for college students. As Chairman, Julie has led NPC's effort to provide support and guidance for its members, and acted as one of NPC's leading voices on contemporary issues of sorority life.

As a proud University of Georgia alumna and past national president of her sorority Alpha Chi Omega, Julie's unyielding passion for Greek life is reflected in her lifetime commitment to collegiate leadership. Under her leadership, NPC has increased their membership, created web-based advocacy tools, and furthered the organizational effectiveness of the conference.

Julie has been a great resource and advocate for women worldwide. Her long-term commitment to her Alpha Chi Omega chapter, its international organization, and the entire Greek community are tokens of the leadership, dedication, and loyalty that make her a role model for women leaders and incredibly deserving of this honor.

I have personally had the opportunity to work with Julie over the years as she has come to Washington to tirelessly advocate for students across the country. We have worked together on the passage of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act, a bill that would help improve not-for-profit housing for college students, as well as legislation dedicated to advancing college fire safety standards and student financial aid.

The National Panhellenic Conference is a stronger organization as a result of her unwavering leadership and steadfast commitment to the lives of Greek women. I am pleased to honor Julie Cain Burkhard's exemplary service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JIMMY "PO WOODS" LEATHERWOOD, ENTREPRENEUR AND OWNER, WOODS, INC. OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great entrepreneur, community leader, humanitarian and family man, the late Jimmy Leatherwood who made his heavenly transition on Sunday, September 27, 2009. It

is often difficult to find words to express the depth of one's feelings with the passing of a good friend and constituent.

Mr. Leatherwood served with distinction for nearly 30 years as a member of the Cook County, Illinois Sheriff's Department. He was a Board Member of the Westside Association for Community Action of Chicago, a member of the famed Rat Pack-Chicago Chapter and served on the School Council of a local Chicago Public School. He worked tirelessly with various organizations to provide scholarship opportunities to young people and annually donated food to those in need in his home town of Leland, Mississippi.

Jimmy dedicated his life toward making a difference in the lives of other people. He was a shining example of how God can use a life to help make this world a better place. Indeed, many who have had the privilege of knowing him have come to recognize that they are a much better person as a result of his life.

Madam Speaker, I want to encourage his devoted wife Joann, their daughter Nazaree, the entire family and the many friends of Mr. Jimmy Leatherwood to always remember to look to the hills from which comes all of their help, trusting that their help will surely come from the Lord. I am truly blessed to have known and worked with him. I am honored to pay tribute to this outstanding gentleman.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL JOB CORPS DAY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Job Corps Day on Capitol Hill, which takes place September 23, 2009. This day-long event will recognize the 45-year anniversary of Job Corps, which has been dedicated to helping young people launch stable careers.

Since its start, Job Corps has been committed to helping young people, ages 16–24, get connected with the resources to be successful in the workforce. With 123 campuses, Job Corps is a nationwide tool for many young Americans to gain the essential education and work skills. I am pleased to have such a strong and active branch of the organization right here in Maricopa County, serving young people across the valley.

At its core, Job Corps exemplifies the importance and true value of education. As a former teacher, I believe education is the foundation for preparing our youth to thrive in the future. Through efforts like Job Corps, we can work together to make higher education and careers attainable for all youth.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Phoenix Job Corps.

ABILITY ONE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a program, which in

the last year, has helped more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have severe disabilities gain skills and training that has ultimately led to gainful employment; The AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life.

This comes in a segment of the population that has suffered from significant unemployment. But programs such as AbilityOne have come a long way in helping to bring people with disabilities into a working society. I am proud to acknowledge that REACH Inc. has played an active role since 1977 in helping employ people with severe disabilities and is one of the community partners to the AbilityOne Program within my state.

The history and mission of REACH Inc. stands as a true example of why this program is a winning proposition for all parties involved. REACH Inc. grew out of the dream of a group of local families who wanted to organize activities for their children with disabilities. Over 32 years ago, REACH Inc. opened its doors in the basement of the Resurrection Lutheran Church in Juneau. What started out as a small, family-run group meeting in a church basement has developed into an agency employing 200 people and serving over 400 individuals.

The direct impact of these organizations on the lives of Americans with disabilities cannot be overstated. For an individual with a severe disability who has never had the opportunity to hold a job, be independent, participate in the community, or play an important role in society; the AbilityOne Program and organizations like REACH Inc. are invaluable.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment to the REACH Inc. Executive Director, Mr. Richard Fagundes, and his staff for helping individuals who are blind or have a severe disability find employment. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives, support our Government, and make our country a better place to live.

COMMENDING HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AND ANTI-TERRORISM PARTNERS

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for the resolution introduced by my colleague from New York, Congresswoman CLARKE. House Resolution 731, of which I am a cosponsor, recognizing the month of September as National